



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Region 6

1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200

Dallas, Texas 75202 - 2733

JAN 10 2012

Honorable Phillip Quintana  
Governor  
Pueblo of Cochiti  
P.O. Box 70  
Cochiti, NM 87072

Re: Offer of Consultation on Reissuance of LANL Wastewater NPDES Permit No. NM0028355

Dear Governor Quintana:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 is working on a wastewater discharge permit renewal under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) for Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). The previously issued permit expired July 31, 2012 and has been administratively continued until the permit renewal is finalized. Because the Pueblo is located downstream of this facility, the EPA would like to offer the Pueblo the opportunity to engage in government-to-government consultation on this permit renewal action.

Identifying concerns the Pueblo may have as early in the permitting renewal process as possible will allow EPA and LANL to address potential impacts to the Pueblo's resources and practices. EPA anticipates having the draft permit available on or about January 31, 2013 with a 30-day public comment period from the date of public notice. The draft permit will be available online at <http://www.epa.gov/region6/water/npdes/publicnotices/index.htm>. The tribal consultation opportunity will begin as of the date of this letter. Any Pueblo concerns with the draft permit will need to be identified by the end of the public comment period. A copy of the draft permit will also be provided to your office.

Tribal consultation will be conducted in accordance with the EPA Policy on Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribes ([www.epa.gov/tribal/consultation/consult-policy.htm](http://www.epa.gov/tribal/consultation/consult-policy.htm)). Should you have questions, concerns or wish to discuss this action or the NPDES program, please contact me at (214) 665-7101 or your staff may contact Brent Larsen of my staff at (214) 665-7523. Should you wish to engage in consultation, please contact me or Ms. Jeannine Hale at (214) 665-2136. For questions about the consultation and coordination process, you may contact Ms. Hale or your staff may contact Ms. Christina Kracher at 214-665-8054.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W K Honker", is written over the typed name.

William K Honker, P.E.

Director

Water Quality Protection Division

Cc: Jacob Pecos, Environmental Director